

The amendment is further modified by striking the word "ending" on pages 58, 63, and 67 and inserting the word "beginning".

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4213 and all postcloture time be considered expired, and upon disposition of the pending amendments, no further amendments or motions be in order; the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 4213, as amended, with the mandatory quorum waived; that if cloture is invoked, then all postcloture time be yielded back, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I voted against waving a budget point of order to the Murray/Kerry amendment on the grounds that it is not paid for and contained terrible welfare and Medicare policies.

The Congress cannot keep spending money it does not have. It is unconscionable to put forth an amendment that is not being paid for at a time of exploding deficits to an underlying bill that already has another \$104 billion not paid for.

In addition to adding to the deficit during a fiscal crisis, the underlying Murray/Kerry amendment perpetuates flawed welfare policies that undermine key principles of welfare reform.

The Murray/Kerry amendment perpetuates the fund established in the stimulus bill that, for the first time since the landmark 1996 welfare reform act, rewards States for increasing their welfare caseload and does not require these additional eligible adults to participate in work, education or training activities.

This in turn adds to the current deplorable situation where, according to the latest data we have from the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. average for eligible adults receiving welfare doing nothing is 56 percent.

That is right—on average 56 percent of adults receiving welfare are engaged in zero hours of work, training or education activity. Some States have over 70 percent of eligible adults doing nothing.

That is zero hours of job search. Zero hours of education. Zero hours of substance abuse treatment. Zero hours of job training. Zero hours of subsidized work activities.

I bet if you asked the American people—how many adults on welfare should be doing something to qualify for their welfare check—I bet the answer would be: all of them!

I bet if the American people knew that the majority of adults on welfare were doing nothing, they would be as stunned and appalled as I am.

We need to do better by these families. Allowing them to languish in the

soul crushing, deep and persistent poverty of welfare is a travesty. The Murray/Kerry amendment does nothing to address the issue that the majority of adults on welfare are not doing anything to get themselves out of poverty.

That makes no sense, Mr. President, and I cannot support it.

Finally, in addition to the misguided welfare policies, I also had reservations about the use of "intelligent assignment" in Part D to pay for this amendment. I fully support efforts to make sure vulnerable populations are in the lowest cost plan that meets their personal health care needs and look forward to continuing to work on this issue in the future. But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, and MedPAC commissioners have raised concerns that "intelligent assignment" could lead to increased disruption, higher costs and little overall improvement for beneficiaries.

Therefore, I opposed waving the Budget Act that would have allowed the Murray/Kerry amendment to undermine welfare policy, advance misguided Medicare policy and increase the deficit.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day—an occasion that celebrates the many contributions women have made to our communities, societies, and nations. Women have made great progress, but the sad reality is that women around the world are not participating equally in business or politics, are not paid the equivalent of their male counterparts, and are more likely to be denied educational opportunities, property ownership, and other basic rights.

The inequities facing women today represent some of the world's greatest global-development challenges. Investing in women is vital to the world's growth potential. I have introduced two bills this Congress that take important steps towards equity and human rights for women worldwide.

In July 2009, I introduced the Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive—GROWTH—Act of 2009. The GROWTH Act is designed to reduce these economic inequities in developing countries. By providing women with the economic resources to start and grow their own businesses, the GROWTH Act would create broad educational, legal, and community-based programs that would promote female property ownership and empower women in their communities.

Today, women account for 64 percent of adults who lack basic literacy skills, 70 percent of the hungry, and 56 percent of those subject to forced labor.

Women typically invest 90 percent of their income back into their household compared to only 30 to 40 percent by men. Developing programs that allow women to increase their education and thrive professionally is good for the family, as well as the woman.

In May 2009, I also introduced the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. This bill sets out to strategically eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage overseas. Child marriage poses a direct threat to investments in education for girls overseas, HIV/AIDS prevention, poverty reduction, maternal and child safety, and human rights.

Too often the potential of children and developing women is crushed by early marriage, sometimes occurring when girls are as young as 7 years of age. Child marriage is a direct challenge to guaranteeing equality and basic human rights to children and developing women around the globe.

International Women's Day calls on us to acknowledge the achievements of women, but it is also a reminder of the sometimes immovable barriers women in many countries still face. I commend my colleague Senator SHAHEEN for submitting S. Res. 433 recognizing International Women's Day. This resolution is a testament to the Senate's commitment to the advancement of women worldwide.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the International Women's Day.

Rooted in the long-term struggle for equality, International Women's Day has been observed since the beginning of the last century, at a time when American women were fighting for basic rights, such as voting or fair employment. We should commemorate the determined and courageous women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

While women have made hard fought and important strides towards equality since then, they continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives, particularly those living in poverty. Over a billion people worldwide live on a dollar a day or less—and women are most likely to be among them. This is a problem that affects all of humanity—when women are poor, entire communities suffer because they are not free to earn an income, feed their families, or protect themselves and their children from violence. And their efforts are critical to rebuilding countries in peril like Afghanistan and Haiti. Until women around the world have improved access to economic, political and social opportunities, the great challenges we face today will go unresolved.

Indeed, investing in women and girls is one of the most efficient uses of our foreign assistance dollars and best ways to make the world more peaceful